



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 62 Years, Convicted of Murder, Assault Charges ***- At Least 45 Rounds Fired in June 2009 Attack -***

WASHINGTON - Troy Renard Thomas, 20, was sentenced today to 62 years of incarceration by the Honorable Herbert B. Dixon Jr. for the murder of Ryan Randy Trotman and the violent assault of a second victim, United States Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Thomas, of the District, was found guilty in June 2010 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of first degree murder (premeditated) while armed, assault with the intent to kill while armed, aggravated assault while armed, and multiple related firearms offenses.

The conviction and sentence stemmed from a shooting that occurred about 9:55 p.m. on June 22, 2009. According to evidence presented at trial, Thomas and a second gunman opened fire in the 600 block of Quebec Place NW, a residential street lined with rowhouses. One shooter was armed with a 9mm semi-automatic handgun, the other carried a 7.62 x 39mm assault rifle.

At least 45 rounds were fired from these two guns – in the words of one witness, the block was like a war zone during the shooting.

Until the shooting, the street was alive with the sort of congenial activity that occurs regularly on that block: friends talking with friends, family members enjoying the evening on front porches. More than 35 people were outside, and the gunfire changed lives on the block forever. One victim was killed, and the other was injured so severely that it looked like she might lose her leg. Today, even after nine surgeries, this victim still cannot walk normally.

Ryan Randy Trotman, 28, was killed by a single gunshot wound to his chest. After being shot, he drove out of the block in an attempt to get to the hospital. But just a few short blocks away, he lost consciousness and overturned his car. An uninvolved bystander pulled him from the car and heard him say repeatedly “I don’t want to die...”

Because both shooters were masked, witnesses on the scene were unable to identify the gunmen. By diligent police work, Metropolitan Police Detectives Jed Worrell and Jacqueline Middleton were able to track the getaway car to Thomas. A search of Thomas's bedroom was conducted less than two days later. That search recovered the assault rifle used in the shooting inside of a trunk in the defendant's bedroom. That weapon was later found to have traces of Thomas's DNA on it. Also recovered from the bedroom was an arsenal of assorted ammunition and more than 150 grams of crack cocaine.

A forensic analysis of Thomas's computer conducted by John Marsh of the United States Attorney's Office recovered additional evidence that the assault rifle belonged to Thomas, as well as evidence that Thomas had used the Internet to track the police response to the crime in the 36 hours that passed between its commission and the search of his bedroom. Despite an exhaustive investigation, no other arrests have been made in the case.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Jed Worrell and Jacqueline Middleton, U.S. Attorney's Office Investigator John Marsh, intern Eleanor Geise, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jocelyn Ballantine for the successful investigation and prosecution of this case.

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